

HYPOCRISY LAD BARE

The Republican Pension Sham Exposed by an Official.

Assistant Chief Clerk Brooks of the Bureau, Shows How Shallow Are the Utterances of the National Candidates in Regard to Veterans of War in Cuba and the Philippines.

An interview, which was published in the "New Orleans Times-Democrat" of October 10, and which has gone unchallenged so far, will give the young man who, in his patriotic ardor, answered the call of President McKinley for volunteers to defend his country, for deep thought. Not only the young man, but his father and mother, and indeed every American who loves his country and is ready to sacrifice his life for it, will ponder and finally recognize that all the fine words which have been said about the brave young men who died in the Spanish war or came home wounded, crippled, or diseased, were nothing but idle talk, scattered broadcast not as a genuine tribute to their patriotism and valor, and a recognition of their rights, but simply as a catch-penny, a snare to get his vote. But the cat is out of the bag now, and the result will surely not fail.

The following is a verbatim copy of the story of Mr. Brooks, the trusted agent, friend and champion of the soldier and pensioner, the present Republican administration of Mark Hanna:

Mr. Brooks' Interview.
"Walter J. Brooks, Assistant Chief Clerk of the United States Pension Bureau, at Washington, was a guest of the Cosmopolitan Hotel yesterday. Mr. Brooks, his mother, Dr. E. V. Brooks, and Mr. R. H. Hannon, of Washington, spent the day in seeing the sights of New Orleans, and they were kind in their praises last night of the hospitality of the people here. Mr. Brooks and his party left last night over the Southern Pacific Railroad for the City of Mexico. They are going there purely as a pleasure trip and will stop over in New Orleans on their way back to Washington."

"The application for pensions from those engaged in the Spanish war are coming in fast," said Mr. Brooks, last evening, to a "Times-Democrat" reporter. "The bureau has already filed 30,000 applications, and they are still coming in. Over 50 per cent of the members of the District of Columbia regiment have filed applications for pensions."

"How many of these men were wounded?"
"Not one, so far as I know. Most of them claim that they have been permanently injured by contracting fever or other diseases in camp."

"What percentage of Roosevelt's Rough Riders have applied for pensions?"
"I cannot tell you; I haven't the statistics on that regiment."

"About what will the aggregate sum paid out annually for these 30,000 pensions?"
"Oh, there won't be 30,000 pensions granted; I should say not more than 10 per cent of the applications will be acted upon favorably. But about 15,000 men will get pensions and they will average about \$150 a year each, or say \$2,250,000 for all of them."

"Do you think that two millions and a quarter dollar will cover the pensions annually for the Spanish war?"
"No, experience has shown that the pension list grows for a number of years after the close of the war. But let us take the men who have applied for pensions are young men who have nothing whatever the matter with them. The examinations of our surgeons and doctors will show that they have 'pension fever,' and that is a bad complaint. When a man has it he usually has it in a violent form, and it becomes chronic with him."

"How about the pensions for those engaged in the Philippine war?"
"Laziness and immorality."

"They are just beginning to come in. I suppose they will come in rapidly soon, but it is too early for them yet. We are not pushing the Spanish war claims very fast. Most of the applicants are young men and they do not need the pensions very badly. Of course, they will get their pensions from the day their applications are filed, but we are in no hurry to grant them. It is the feeling at the Pension Bureau that it is not a good thing for the young men to draw pensions. It makes them lazy and is not good for them morally."

Commenting on this utterance of the trusted agent of the administration, who claims to be the only friend of the young man who offered his life to fight for his country, the "New Orleans Times-Democrat" of October 10 says:

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"The Republican party has used the pension issue in politics as far as it can stretch it, and is using it today; but how hypocritical it is in the matter is well shown by the interview we gave, for Mr. Brooks not only richly deserves the pension fever, but he assumes in advance that the bureau intends to throw out half of the claims presented on account of the Spanish war. The Republican party pretends to be the friend of the soldier and pensioner, but it is not."

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"The attitude of the bureau—and of the Administration—toward the Spanish war veterans is evidenced by Mr. Brooks' interview. Roosevelt is campaigning against the country vaunting the prowess and patriotism of the American soldiers in the Spanish war, but the Republican Pension Bureau handles these veterans in a rough and thoroughly uncomplimentary manner. There are 30,000 applicants for pensions from the soldiers of the Spanish war, Mr. Brooks informs us, and the District of Columbia regiment 50 per cent of the men have filed applications for pensions, in spite of the fact that not one of these men, as far as he knows, was wounded. Our experience shows, says Mr. Brooks, that lots of the men who have applied for pensions are young men who have nothing the matter with them and do not need pensions. He says that the bureau will get pensions from the day their applications are filed, but we are in no hurry to grant them. It is the feeling of the Pension Bureau that it is not a good thing for the young men to draw pensions. It makes them lazy, and is not good for them morally."

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A TART REPLY TO HEATH

Father of Republicanism Cannot Support Mr. McKinley.

Survivor of the Pittsburg Convention Declares That the Party Has Left Him, Not He the Party—General Brickerhoff Makes the Statement That He Is Now a Democrat.

MANSFIELD, Ohio, Oct. 20.—Gen. George N. Jesse, Assistant Secretary of the Democratic Congressional Committee, has sent a despatch to Mr. Bryan requesting information as to the plans of the Democratic candidate while in Washington. The request has also been made of Mr. Bryan that he make a brief speech at the house of a friend in Washington. Mr. Bryan will spend tomorrow in Wheeling, W. Va. That day will be given over to rest. On Monday the first course will be at the Hotel Hamilton, Va. at 10 o'clock and the last at Hinton in the same State, in the evening.

The train on which he is to come to Washington is scheduled to arrive in this city over the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at 7 o'clock Tuesday morning. The present plan is that several of the Democratic organizations of the District of Columbia will meet Mr. Bryan and escort him to the Metropolitan Hotel, where he and the party accompanying him will be served with breakfast. That this is not the case is a matter of course. Mr. Bryan will leave over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for Rockville at 8:30.

If Mr. Bryan shall agree to make a brief speech during his stay in Washington, it will be delivered at one of two places—either from the balcony of the Metropolitan Hotel or from the entrance of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station.

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Details of His Journey to the National Capital.

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